

# THE PROGENITORS OF CORE-COLLAPSE SUPERNOVAE SUGGEST THERMONUCLEAR ORIGIN FOR THE EXPLOSIONS

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## ABSTRACT

Core-collapse supernovae (CCSNe) are the explosions of massive stars following the collapse of the stars' iron cores. Poznanski (2013) has recently suggested an observational correlation between the ejecta velocities and the inferred masses of the red supergiant progenitors of type II-P explosions, which implies that the kinetic energy of the ejecta ( $E_{\text{kin}}$ ) increases with the mass of the progenitor. I point out that the same conclusion can be reached from the model-free observed correlation between the ejected  $^{56}\text{Ni}$  masses ( $M_{\text{Ni}}$ ) and the luminosities of the progenitors for type II supernovae, which was reported by Fraser et al. (2011). This correlation is in an agreement with the predictions of the collapse-induced thermonuclear explosions (CITE) for CCSNe and in a possible contradiction with the predictions of the neutrino mechanism. I show that a correlation between  $M_{\text{Ni}}$  and  $E_{\text{kin}}$  holds for all types of CCSNe (including type Ibc). This correlation suggests a common mechanism for all CCSNe, which is predicted for CITE, but is not produced by current simulations of the neutrino mechanism. Furthermore, the typical values of  $E_{\text{kin}}$  and  $M_{\text{Ni}}$  for type Ibc explosions are larger by an order of a magnitude than the typical values for II-P explosions, a fact which disfavors progenitors with the same initial mass range for these explosions. Instead, the progenitors of type Ibc explosions could be massive Wolf-Rayet stars, which are predicted to yield strong explosions with low ejecta masses (as observed) according to CITE. In this case, there is no deficit of high mass progenitors for CCSNe, which was suggested under the assumption of a similar mass range for the progenitors of types II-P and Ibc supernovae.

*Subject headings:* supernovae: general

## 1. INTRODUCTION

There is strong evidence that supernovae of types II and Ibc are explosions of massive stars (e.g. Hirata et al. 1987; Arnett et al. 1989; van Dyk 1992; Smartt 2009), involving the collapse of the stars' iron cores and ejection of the outer layers. It is widely thought that the observed  $\sim 10^{51}$  erg kinetic energy of the ejecta ( $E_{\text{kin}}$ ) is due to the deposition of a small fraction ( $\sim 1\%$ ) of the gravitational energy ( $\sim 10^{53}$  erg) released in neutrinos (see Bethe 1990; Janka 2012, for reviews). So far, this scenario has not been demonstrated from first principles. In fact, one-dimensional simulations indicate that the neutrinos do not deposit sufficient energy. While some explosions were obtained in multi-dimensional simulations with simplified neutrino transport, the fundamental mechanism would only be satisfactorily demonstrated once accurate three-dimensional simulations, with all relevant physical process taken into account, become available. Burbidge et al. (1957) suggested a different mechanism for the explosion during core-collapse that does not involve the emitted neutrinos. In this proposed scenario, increased burning rates due to adiabatic heating of the outer shells as they collapse lead to a thermonuclear explosion (see also Hoyle & Fowler 1960; Fowler & Hoyle 1964). This collapse-induced thermonuclear explosion (CITE) naturally produces  $\sim 10^{51}$  erg from thermonuclear burning of  $\sim 1 M_{\odot}$  (gain of  $\sim \text{MeV}/m_p$ ).

Kushnir & Katz (2014) have shown that CITE is possible in some (tuned) one-dimensional initial profiles, which include shells of mixed helium and oxygen, but resulting in weak explosions,  $\lesssim 10^{50}$  erg, and negligible amounts of  $^{56}\text{Ni}$  are ejected. In Kushnir (2015) I have recently used two-dimensional simulations of rotating massive stars to explore

the conditions required for CITE to operate successfully. I found out that for stellar cores that include slowly (a few percent of breakup) rotating  $\sim 0.1 - 10 M_{\odot}$  explosive shells of He-O with densities of few  $\times 10^3$  g cm<sup>-3</sup>, an ignition of a thermonuclear detonation that unbinds the stars' outer layers is obtained. With a series of simulations that cover a wide range of the progenitor masses and profiles, I showed that CITE is insensitive to the assumed profiles and thus a robust process that leads to supernova explosions for rotating massive stars. The resulting explosions have  $E_{\text{kin}}$  in the range of  $10^{49} - 10^{52}$  erg, and ejected  $^{56}\text{Ni}$  masses ( $M_{\text{Ni}}$ ) of up to  $\sim 1 M_{\odot}$ , both of which cover the observed ranges of core-collapse supernovae (CCSNe, including types II and Ibc). CITE predicts that stronger explosions (i.e., larger  $E_{\text{kin}}$  and higher  $M_{\text{Ni}}$ ) are from progenitors with higher masses. Testing if the required initial conditions for CITE to operate exist in nature is difficult observationally, but here I show observational evidence from CCSNe that are in agreement with the prediction that stronger explosions are from progenitors with higher masses, which implies that CITE may be the dominant mechanism for CCSNe explosions.

In recent years, direct identifications of the progenitors have been made for CCSNe in pre-explosion images, and they provide powerful tests for CCSNe theories (e.g. Smartt 2009; Leonard 2011; Smartt 2015). Several observed correlations between the properties of the progenitors and the supernovae suggest that more massive progenitors lead to stronger explosions. Poznanski (2013) has recently suggested an observational correlation between the ejecta velocities and the inferred masses of the red supergiant progenitors of type II-P explosions. The correlation implies that  $E_{\text{kin}}$  is approximately proportional to the mass of the progenitor cubed. Poznanski (2013) suggested that the same correlation can be also deduced for type II-P supernovae from the observed uni-

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formity of the light-curve plateau duration (Poznanski et al. 2009; Arcavi et al. 2012) and the correlation between the light-curve luminosities and ejecta velocities (Hamuy & Pinto 2002; Nugent et al. 2006). In Section 2, I point out that more massive progenitors leading to stronger explosions can be deduced in a model-independent way from the observed correlation between  $M_{\text{Ni}}$  and the progenitor luminosities. This observed correlation was first reported by Fraser et al. (2011) (see also a closely related correlation between  $M_{\text{Ni}}$  and the masses of the progenitors, suggested by Smartt et al. 2009). Unlike progenitor masses or  $E_{\text{kin}}$ , whose inferences rely upon models (massive star evolution models or complicated light-curve models, respectively) and thus are subjective to large systematics uncertainties due to model assumptions, both  $M_{\text{Ni}}$  and progenitor luminosities are model-free and can be directly derived from observations. Furthermore, these two quantities can be deduced for all type II explosions and are not restricted to type II-P supernovae. I reproduce the correlation between  $M_{\text{Ni}}$  and the progenitor luminosities with an updated data (Section 2.1) and show that it is in an agreement with the predictions of CITE (Section 2.2) and in a possible contradiction with the predictions of the neutrino mechanism (Section 2.3).

The use of  $M_{\text{Ni}}$  as an indicator for  $E_{\text{kin}}$  is based on an observed correlation between  $M_{\text{Ni}}$  and  $E_{\text{kin}}$  shown in Section 3. I demonstrate that this correlation holds for all types of CCSNe, including both types II and Ibc (Section 3.1). This universal correlation suggests a common explosion mechanism for all CCSNe, which is predicted for CITE, but it is not produced by current simulations of the neutrino mechanism (Section 3.2). Furthermore, the typical values of  $E_{\text{kin}}$  and  $M_{\text{Ni}}$  for type Ibc explosions are larger by an order of a magnitude from the typical values for type II-P explosions. This fact disfavors a similar mass range for the progenitors of these events, and suggests that the progenitors of type Ibc explosions are massive Wolf-Rayet (WR) stars (Section 3.3). Since WR stars have more massive cores and stripped envelopes, CITE predicts that they lead to stronger explosions and relatively low ejecta masses, both of which are consistent with observations. Progenitor studies that assume a similar mass range for the progenitors of type II-P and type Ibc supernovae suggest a deficit of high mass progenitors ( $\gtrsim 20 M_{\odot}$ ) for CCSNe, and if true, it would imply that higher mass stars produce “failed supernovae” – weak explosions that are very faint (e.g., see Smartt 2009). However, If massive WR stars are the progenitors of type Ibc supernovae, there is no deficit of high mass progenitors for CCSNe (Smartt 2015).

## 2. EJECTED $^{56}\text{Ni}$ MASSES VERSUS THE LUMINOSITIES OF THE PROGENITOR

### 2.1. *Observations*

The observed correlation between  $M_{\text{Ni}}$  and the luminosities of the progenitors, which was reported by Fraser et al. (2011), is reproduced with updated data in panel (a) of Figure 1. The sample includes all supernovae from Smartt (2015), for which estimates of  $M_{\text{Ni}}$  are available in the literature, supplemented with SN 1987A and SN 1993J (see Table 1). A clear correlation over one order of magnitude for both  $M_{\text{Ni}}$  and for the luminosity of the progenitor is apparent, where the range of  $M_{\text{Ni}}$  roughly corresponds to  $E_{\text{kin}} \sim \text{few} \times 10^{50} - \text{few} \times 10^{51}$  erg (see Figure 3). More luminous progenitors eject larger masses of  $^{56}\text{Ni}$ . Note that SN 1987A and type IIb supernovae have the largest progenitors luminosities and the largest  $M_{\text{Ni}}$  values, a

property that will be discussed in Section 3.

It would seem natural to inspect the correlation between  $E_{\text{kin}}$  and the luminosity of the progenitors, rather than using  $M_{\text{Ni}}$  as an indicator for  $E_{\text{kin}}$ . The main motivation against using the inferred  $E_{\text{kin}}$  from observations is the complicated light-curve modeling that is involved for its estimation (which can include large systematic uncertainties), compared with the model-free determination of  $M_{\text{Ni}}$ . Indeed, only a weak correlation is obtained between the estimated  $E_{\text{kin}}$  reported in the literature (see Table 1) and the luminosity of the progenitors, as shown in Figure 2. The advantage of using  $M_{\text{Ni}}$  over  $E_{\text{kin}}$  is evident by comparing panel (a) of Figure 1 to Figure 2. The correlation between  $M_{\text{Ni}}$  and  $E_{\text{kin}}$  (Section 3) that is the justification for using  $M_{\text{Ni}}$  as an indicator for  $E_{\text{kin}}$  suffers as well from the large systematic uncertainties in the estimation of  $E_{\text{kin}}$ . However, in this case the sample is large and it spans more than two orders of magnitude in  $M_{\text{Ni}}$  and  $E_{\text{kin}}$ , such that the large systematic uncertainties are less important.

Since more luminous progenitors are more massive and since larger values of  $M_{\text{Ni}}$  imply larger  $E_{\text{kin}}$ , the correlation between  $M_{\text{Ni}}$  and the luminosities of the progenitors implies that more massive progenitors lead to stronger explosions, the same qualitative result found by Poznanski (2013). The model-free measurements of  $M_{\text{Ni}}$  and of the luminosities of the progenitors are more robust than the estimates of the masses of the progenitors (which depend on stellar evolution models) and of  $E_{\text{kin}}$  (which depend on complicated light-curve modeling). Furthermore, Poznanski (2013) used the Fe II  $\lambda 5169$  absorption feature to estimate the velocity of the ejecta, which limits the analysis for events other than type II-P.

### 2.2. *The prediction of CITE agrees with observations*

A primary prediction of CITE is that  $E_{\text{kin}}$  increases with the mass of the progenitor (Kushnir 2015). This is more apparent by considering the binding energy of the shells to be ejected,  $E_{\text{bin}}$  (corrected for thermal energy), which is more negative for more massive progenitors. We can write quite generally that  $E_{\text{kin}}$  is given by

$$E_{\text{kin}} \approx E_{\text{dep}} + E_{\text{bin}}, \quad (1)$$

where  $E_{\text{dep}}$  is the energy deposited in the ejecta. For CITE, the deposited energy is thermonuclear,  $E_{\text{dep}} \sim M_{\text{shell}} \times \text{MeV}/m_p$ , where  $M_{\text{shell}}$  is the mass of shell of the thermonuclear fuel (the explosive shell). The relevant binding energy in this case is the one exterior to the base of the explosive shell,  $E_{\text{bin}} \sim -GM_{\text{base}}M_{\text{shell}}/r_{\text{base}}$ , where  $M_{\text{base}}$  and  $r_{\text{base}}$  are the enclosed mass and the radius at the base of the explosive shell, respectively.  $E_{\text{dep}}$  and  $|E_{\text{bin}}|$  are comparable, since  $\text{few} \times GM_{\text{base}}/r_{\text{base}} \approx \text{MeV}/m_p$  (Kushnir & Katz 2014). Therefore,  $E_{\text{kin}}$  can never exceed significantly  $|E_{\text{bin}}|$ , and in the absence of a tuning between  $E_{\text{dep}}$  and  $E_{\text{bin}}$ ,  $E_{\text{kin}}$  cannot be much smaller than  $|E_{\text{bin}}|$ . Therefore,  $E_{\text{kin}} \sim |E_{\text{bin}}|$  for CITE. This order of magnitude estimate is validated in panel (b) of Figure 1, which shows the results of the CITE simulations that exploded successfully from Kushnir (2015). The conclusion is that the prediction of CITE agrees with the observation that more massive progenitors lead to stronger explosions.

### 2.3. *The prediction of the neutrino mechanism possibly contradicts observations*

For the neutrino mechanism,  $E_{\text{dep}}$  is the energy deposited by neutrinos. Since from basic considerations the iron core is

similar over a wide range of progenitor masses (the iron core is approximately a Chandrasekhar-mass white dwarf),  $E_{\text{dep}}$  is roughly constant over a wide progenitor mass range. However, the relevant binding energy in this case, the one exterior to the iron core, changes significantly between different progenitor masses. Therefore, as long as  $E_{\text{dep}} \gg |E_{\text{bin}}|$ , Equation (1) predicts that  $E_{\text{kin}} \approx E_{\text{dep}} \approx \text{constant}$ . At some progenitor mass  $E_{\text{dep}}$  is comparable to  $|E_{\text{bin}}|$ , such that for higher progenitor masses the explosion fails, since the deposited energy by neutrinos is smaller than the (absolute) binding energy. This behavior should be general for the neutrino mechanism, and probably does not depend on the specific scenario in which the star explodes. In fact, this behavior should hold for every scenario in which the deposited energy is dominated by the stellar core and is not sensitive to the binding energy of the shells to be ejected. So we expect  $E_{\text{kin}}$  to be constant up to some value of  $|E_{\text{bin}}|$  (threshold progenitor mass) and then to rapidly fall to zero (failed explosions).

The results of Ugliano et al. (2012) for the neutrino mechanism are shown in Panel (c) of Figure 1. I use the values of  $E_{\text{bin}}$ , as reported by Ugliano et al. (2012), which are defined exterior to the iron core (at a mass coordinate of  $\approx 1.5 M_{\odot}$ ), and are approximately the binding energies of the shells that are to be ejected. At low progenitor masses (low  $|E_{\text{bin}}|$ ) the value of  $E_{\text{kin}}$  is indeed constant. However, instead of a sharp drop for  $E_{\text{kin}}$  at some value of  $|E_{\text{bin}}|$ , there is a complicated behavior near  $|E_{\text{bin}}| \approx 10^{51} \text{ erg}$ , which received much attention recently (O'Connor & Ott 2011; Ugliano et al. 2012; Pejcha & Thompson 2015; Ertl et al. 2015). The range of binding energies over which this complicated behavior is obtained is only a factor of  $\approx 2$  and is of no importance for the current discussion. Another complication in the behavior for the neutrino mechanism is the predicted weak explosions ( $\approx 10^{50} \text{ erg}$ ) for the lowest mass progenitors (electron-capture supernova (ECSN); Nomoto 1984, 1987; Kitaura et al. 2006; Janka et al. 2008; Wanajo et al. 2011). However, the combination of two different mechanisms (iron core-collapse at high progenitor masses and electron-capture at low progenitor masses) is not supported by the uniformity of the observed correlations for the entire progenitor mass range (see the discussion at the end of Section 3.2). In summary, the prediction of the neutrino mechanism is a roughly constant  $E_{\text{kin}}$  for a wide range of progenitor masses and a sharp drop (maybe with a complicated behavior over a small range of progenitor masses) at some progenitor mass. This is in a possible contradiction with the observation that more massive progenitors lead to stronger explosions. It is yet to be seen whether accurate three-dimensional simulations of the neutrino mechanism, with all relevant physical process taken into account, would reproduce this observation.

### 3. EJECTED $^{56}\text{Ni}$ MASSES VERSUS THE KINETIC ENERGIES OF THE EJECTA

#### 3.1. Observations

Estimates of  $E_{\text{kin}}$  and  $M_{\text{Ni}}$  for 70 observed supernovae within comoving radial distance of  $< 100 \text{ Mpc}$  (to exclude rare events) are listed in Table 2 and are shown in Figure 3. This is the same compilation of Kushnir (2015) with a few more events. Note that the distribution of the sample in the  $E_{\text{kin}}-M_{\text{Ni}}$  plane does not represent the relative rates of the events. A clear correlation over two orders of magnitude for both  $E_{\text{kin}}$  and  $M_{\text{Ni}}$  is apparent. Stronger explosions eject larger masses of  $^{56}\text{Ni}$ . This correlation allowed the use of  $M_{\text{Ni}}$

as an indicator for  $E_{\text{kin}}$  in Section 2. The estimates of  $E_{\text{kin}}$  from observations involve complicated light-curve modeling (which can include large systematic uncertainties). However, unlike the situation in Figure 2, in this case the sample is large and it spans more than two orders of magnitude in  $M_{\text{Ni}}$  and  $E_{\text{kin}}$ , such that the large systematic uncertainties are less important.

#### 3.2. A common mechanism for all CCSNe

The correlation between  $E_{\text{kin}}$  and  $M_{\text{Ni}}$  holds for all types of CCSNe (types II and Ibc), and spans the entire observed ranges of  $E_{\text{kin}}$  ( $\sim 10^{50}-10^{52} \text{ erg}$ ) and  $M_{\text{Ni}}$  ( $\sim 10^{-3}-1 M_{\odot}$ ). This correlation suggests a common mechanism for all CCSNe, from the weakest observed explosions to the strongest ones. Such a common mechanism is predicted for CITE (Kushnir 2015), but seems unlikely for the neutrino mechanism, for two reasons. The first reason is that current simulations of the neutrino mechanism do not produce strong ( $\sim 10^{52} \text{ erg}$ ) explosions (see the discussion in Janka 2012). The second reason is that weak ( $\sim 10^{50} \text{ erg}$ ) explosions would require an extreme tuning for the neutrino mechanism. In the case that  $|E_{\text{bin}}| \sim 10^{51} \text{ erg}$ , the fraction of the gravitational energy ( $\sim 10^{53} \text{ erg}$ ) released in neutrinos that is deposited should be  $\sim 2\%$  for moderate ( $\sim 10^{51} \text{ erg}$ ) explosions, and should be  $\sim 1.1\%$  for weak explosions (a tuning of  $\sim 10^{-3}$ ). In the case that  $|E_{\text{bin}}| \sim 10^{50} \text{ erg}$ , the fraction of the gravitational energy released in neutrinos that is deposited should be  $\sim 0.2\%$  for weak explosions (again, a tuning of  $\sim 10^{-3}$ ). The possibility that a different mechanism (ECSN) is operating for the lowest mass progenitors is not supported by the smooth observed correlations, which suggest a common mechanism for all CCSNe. This is demonstrated more robustly by the correlation between  $M_{\text{Ni}}$  and the V-band plateau luminosities, which suggests a common mechanism for weak and moderate events (Spiro et al. 2014, Figure 16 there).

#### 3.3. The progenitors of type Ibc explosions are massive Wolf-Rayet (WR) stars – no deficit of high mass progenitors for CCSNe

The distribution of the different types of events in the  $E_{\text{kin}}-M_{\text{Ni}}$  plane indicates that the sequence II-P, 87A like, IIb, Ibc is a sequence of  $E_{\text{kin}}$  and of  $M_{\text{Ni}}$  (this sequence is evident even when considering only  $M_{\text{Ni}}$ , which is more robustly observed).

$E_{\text{kin}}$  and  $M_{\text{Ni}}$  for type Ibc explosions are larger by an order of a magnitude than  $E_{\text{kin}}$  and  $M_{\text{Ni}}$  for type II-P explosions, respectively. Let us consider the possibility that the progenitors of types Ibc and type II-P supernovae have a similar mass range, and that the different display of the supernova is solely because of the stripping of the hydrogen envelope for the type Ibc case. One expects that in this case  $E_{\text{kin}}$  and  $M_{\text{Ni}}$  would be similar for types II-P and Ibc, since these parameters are determined by the explosion mechanism, which takes place at the interior of the star, and is independent of the hydrogen envelope properties (and whether it exists or not). However, as pointed out above,  $E_{\text{kin}}$  and  $M_{\text{Ni}}$  for type Ibc explosions are larger by an order of a magnitude than the typical values for type II-P explosions. Therefore, the possibility that the progenitors of types Ibc and type II-P supernovae have a similar mass range is disfavored by observations.

One caveat is that  $^{56}\text{Ni}$ -powered events like type Ibc are hard to find when  $M_{\text{Ni}}$  is small, while type II events that initially powered by shock cooling can be observed even if

they produce no  $^{56}\text{Ni}$  at all. Therefore, the lack of type Ibc events with small values of  $M_{\text{Ni}}$  may be because of a selection bias. One possible way to check for such a bias is to calculate the (Pearson) partial correlation between  $\log_{10}(E_{\text{kin}})$  and  $\log_{10}(M_{\text{Ni}})$  given the distances to the events, which is  $\rho \simeq 0.73$  with a  $p$ -value of  $\simeq 1.4 \cdot 10^{-13}$ , suggesting that such a bias is unlikely.

The second discussed possibility for the progenitors of type Ibc are Wolf-Rayet (WR) stars (see also the suggestion that the observed progenitor of the type Ib SN PTF13bvn is a WR star; Cao et al. 2013; Groh et al. 2013). Since these stars have more massive cores, CITE predicts that they lead to stronger explosions and larger amounts of  $^{56}\text{Ni}$  are ejected. This continues the trend that was established in Section 2 for type II explosions, that more massive progenitors yield stronger explosions. One argument given by Bersten et al. (2014) and by Smartt (2015) against WR stars being the progenitors of type Ibc is the low estimated mass of the ejecta (typically  $1-4 M_{\odot}$ ) compared to the mass of WR stars (typically  $8-20 M_{\odot}$ ). However, this is a problem only if one assumes that most of the mass of the progenitor is ejected, as predicted by the neutrino mechanism. For CITE, only the mass exterior to the base of the explosive shell is ejected, and in the case that there is no hydrogen envelope, this mass agrees with the estimated ejected mass from observations (Kushnir 2015). It is further predicted by CITE for WR progenitors that the interior mass to the base of the explosive shell collapses and forms a massive black hole. So, assuming CITE explosions, strong type Ibc explosions with low ejecta masses are consistent with massive WR progenitors. Progenitor studies that assume a similar mass range for the progenitors of types II-P and Ibc supernovae suggest a deficit of high mass progenitors ( $\gtrsim 20 M_{\odot}$ ) for CCSNe (e.g., see Smartt 2009). However, If massive WR stars are the progenitors of type Ibc supernovae, there is no deficit of high mass progenitors for CCSNe (Smartt 2015).

In summary, the observational evidence suggests that the sequence II-P, 87A like, IIb, Ibc is a progenitor mass sequence, where more massive progenitors lead to stronger explosions.

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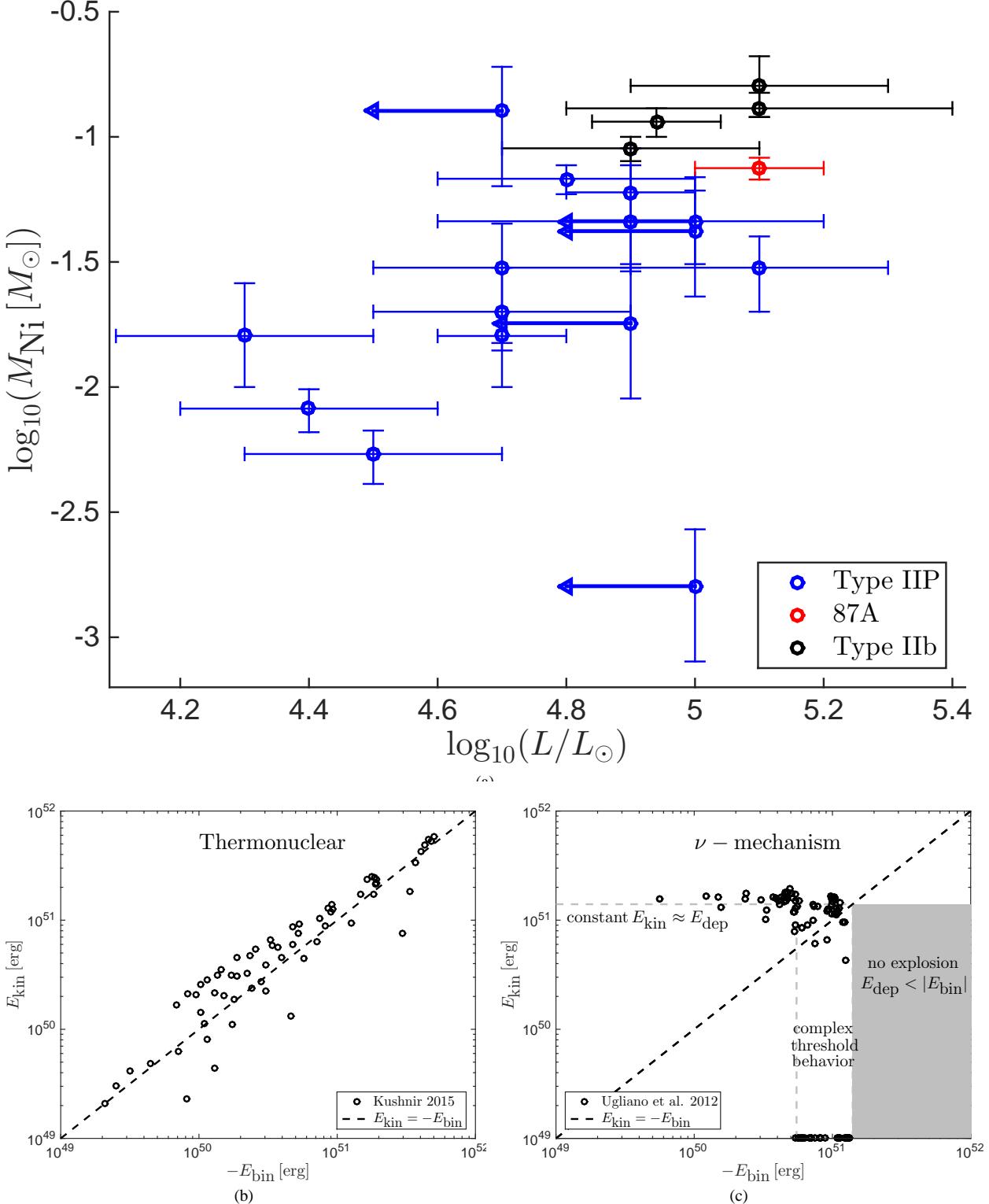
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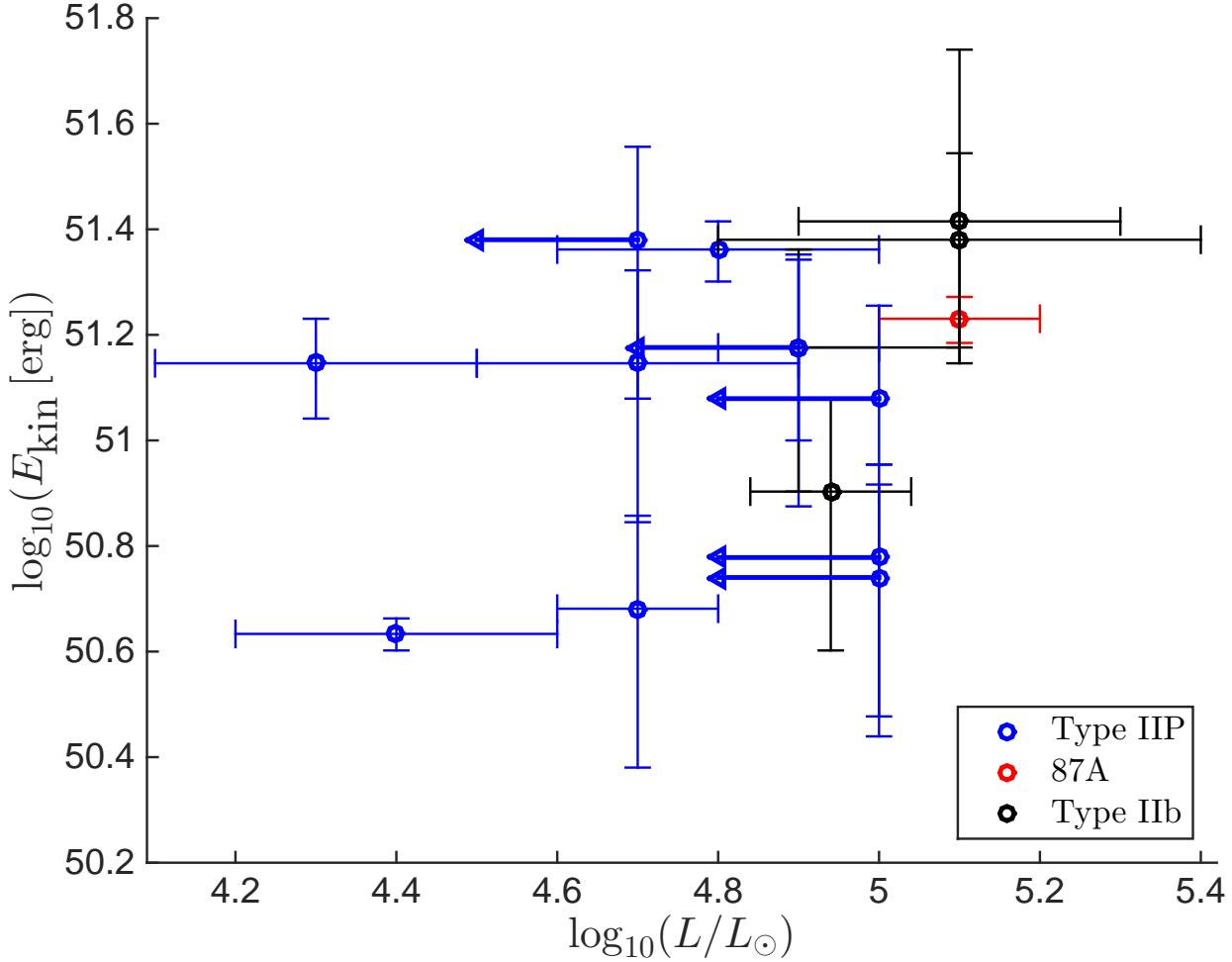
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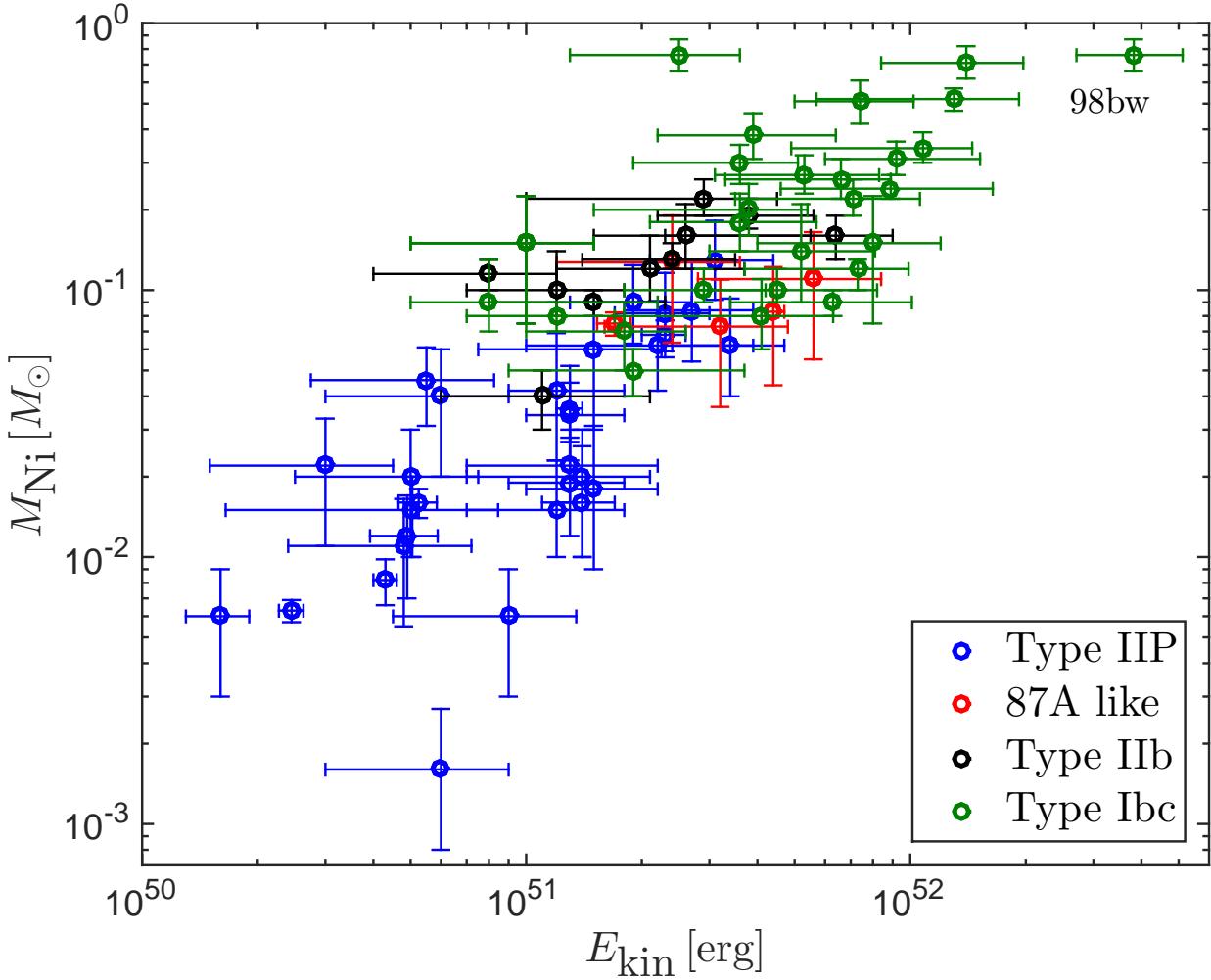
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**Figure 1.** Panel (a): The observed correlation between  $M_{\text{Ni}}$  and the luminosities of the progenitors for type II supernovae, which was first reported by Fraser et al. (2011), is reproduced here with updated data. The sample includes all supernovae from Smartt (2015), for which an estimate of  $M_{\text{Ni}}$  is available in the literature, supplemented with SN 1987A and SN 1993J (see Table 1). In the cases that  $M_{\text{Ni}}$  lacks an error estimate, an error of 50% was assumed (10% for SN 1987A). More luminous progenitors eject larger masses of  $^{56}\text{Ni}$ . Since more luminous progenitors are more massive (with more negative binding energy,  $E_{\text{bin}}$ ) and since larger values of  $M_{\text{Ni}}$  roughly corresponds to  $E_{\text{kin}} \sim \text{few} \times 10^{50} - \text{few} \times 10^{51}$  erg. Panel (b): The kinetic energy of the ejecta as function of  $E_{\text{bin}}$  at the base of the explosive shell for the CITE simulations that exploded successfully from Kushnir (2015). Panel (c): The kinetic energy of the ejecta as function of  $E_{\text{bin}}$  exterior to the iron core for the neutrino mechanism simulations of Ugliano et al. (2012). The points at  $10^{49}$  erg represent failed explosions.



**Figure 2.** The observed correlation between the estimated  $E_{\text{kin}}$  and the luminosities of the progenitors. The sample includes all supernovae from Smartt (2015), for which an estimate of  $E_{\text{kin}}$  is available in the literature, supplemented with SN 1987A and SN 1993J (see Table 1). In the cases that  $E_{\text{kin}}$  lacks an error estimate, an error of 50% was assumed (10% for SN 1987A). The estimates of  $E_{\text{kin}}$  from observations involve complicated light-curve modeling (which can include large systematic uncertainties). This is probably the reason for the weak observed correlation that is obtained when using  $E_{\text{kin}}$  compared to the strong observed correlation that is obtained when using  $M_{\text{Ni}}$  (panel (a) of Figure 1), which is model-free and can be directly derived from observations.



**Figure 3.** Estimates of  $E_{\text{kin}}$  and  $M_{\text{Ni}}$  from the literature for 70 observed supernovae (see Table 2). This is the same compilation of Kushnir (2015) with a few more events. In the case that  $E_{\text{kin}}$  or  $M_{\text{Ni}}$  lack an error estimate, an error of 50% was assumed (10% for SN 1987A). The estimates of  $E_{\text{kin}}$  from observations involve complicated light-curve modeling (which can include large systematic uncertainties). However, unlike the situation in Figure 2, in this case the sample is large and it spans more than two orders of magnitude in  $M_{\text{Ni}}$  and  $E_{\text{kin}}$ , such that the large systematic uncertainties are less important.

**Table 1**

The progenitors from the sample of Smartt (2015), for which estimates of  $M_{\text{Ni}}$  are available in the literature, supplemented with SN 1987A and SN 1993J.

| Name | $\log_{10}(L/L_{\odot})$ | $E_{\text{kin}} [10^{51} \text{ erg}]$ | $^{56}\text{Ni}$ mass [ $M_{\odot}$ ] | Type |
|------|--------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|------|
| 03gd | $4.3^{+0.2}_{-0.2}$      | $1.4^{+0.3}_{-0.3}$                    | $0.016^{+0.01}_{-0.006}$              | IIP  |
| 05cs | $4.4^{+0.2}_{-0.2}$      | $0.43^{+0.03}_{-0.03}$                 | $0.0082^{+0.0016}_{-0.0016}$          | IIP  |
| 09md | $4.5^{+0.2}_{-0.2}$      | —                                      | $0.0054^{+0.0013}_{-0.0013}$          | IIP  |
| 06my | $4.7^{+0.2}_{-0.2}$      | —                                      | $0.03^{+0.015}_{-0.015}$              | IIP  |
| 12A  | $4.7^{+0.1}_{-0.1}$      | 0.48                                   | $0.016^{+0.002}_{-0.002}$             | IIP  |
| 13ej | $4.7^{+0.2}_{-0.2}$      | $1.4^{+0.7}_{-0.7}$                    | $0.02^{+0.01}_{-0.01}$                | IIP  |
| 04et | $4.8^{+0.2}_{-0.2}$      | $2.3^{+0.3}_{-0.3}$                    | $0.068^{+0.009}_{-0.009}$             | IIP  |
| 04A  | $4.9^{+0.3}_{-0.3}$      | —                                      | $0.046^{+0.031}_{-0.017}$             | IIP  |
| 12aw | $4.9^{+0.1}_{-0.1}$      | 1.5                                    | 0.06                                  | IIP  |
| 12ec | $5.1^{+0.2}_{-0.2}$      | —                                      | $0.03^{+0.01}_{-0.01}$                | IIP  |
| 06ov | < 4.7                    | 2.4                                    | 0.127                                 | IIP  |
| 99gi | < 4.9                    | $1.5^{+0.7}_{-0.5}$                    | $0.018^{+0.013}_{-0.009}$             | IIP  |
| 99br | < 5                      | 0.6                                    | $0.0016^{+0.0011}_{-0.0008}$          | IIP  |
| 99em | < 5                      | $1.2^{+0.6}_{-0.3}$                    | $0.042^{+0.027}_{-0.019}$             | IIP  |
| 09ib | < 5                      | 0.55                                   | $0.046^{+0.015}_{-0.015}$             | IIP  |
| 08ax | $5.1^{+0.2}_{-0.2}$      | $2.6^{+2.9}_{-1.1}$                    | $0.16^{+0.05}_{-0.04}$                | Ib   |
| 11dh | $4.9^{+0.2}_{-0.2}$      | $1.5^{+0.8}_{-0.7}$                    | $0.09^{+0.01}_{-0.01}$                | Ib   |
| 13df | $4.94^{+0.1}_{-0.1}$     | $0.8^{+0.4}_{-0.4}$                    | $0.115^{+0.015}_{-0.015}$             | Ib   |
| 87A  | $5.1^{+0.1}_{-0.1}$      | 1.7                                    | 0.075                                 | 87A  |
| 93J  | $5.1^{+0.3}_{-0.3}$      | $2.4^{+1.1}_{-1}$                      | $0.13^{+0.02}_{-0.01}$                | Ib   |

**Note.** — The luminosities of the progenitors are from Smartt (2015), except SN 1987A (Smartt et al. 2009) and SN 1993J (Maund et al. 2004). The estimates of  $E_{\text{kin}}$  and of  $M_{\text{Ni}}$  are from Table 2, except SN 2009md (Fraser et al. 2011), SN 2006my (Smartt et al. 2009), SN 2004A (Hendry et al. 2006) and SN 2012ec (Jerkstrand et al. 2015).

**Table 2**  
A compilation from the literature of estimated  $E_{\text{kin}}$  and  $M_{\text{Ni}}$  from the light-curves.

| Name | Kinetic energy [ $10^{51}$ erg] | $^{56}\text{Ni}$ mass [ $M_{\odot}$ ] | Type | Reference | Name      | Kinetic energy [ $10^{51}$ erg] | $^{56}\text{Ni}$ mass [ $M_{\odot}$ ] | Type | Reference |
|------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------|------|-----------|-----------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------|------|-----------|
| 69L  | $2.3^{+0.7}_{-0.6}$             | $0.082^{+0.034}_{-0.026}$             | IIP  | 3         | 73R       | $2.7^{+1.2}_{-0.9}$             | $0.084^{+0.044}_{-0.03}$              | IIP  | 3         |
| 83I  | 1                               | 0.15                                  | Ibc  | 3         | 83N       | 1                               | 0.15                                  | Ibc  | 3         |
| 84L  | 1                               | 0.15                                  | Ibc  | 3         | 86L       | $1.3^{+0.5}_{-0.3}$             | $0.034^{+0.018}_{-0.011}$             | IIP  | 3         |
| 87A  | 1.7                             | 0.075                                 | 87A  | 3         | 88A       | $2.2^{+1.7}_{-1.2}$             | $0.062^{+0.029}_{-0.02}$              | IIP  | 3         |
| 89L  | $1.2^{+0.6}_{-0.5}$             | $0.015^{+0.008}_{-0.005}$             | IIP  | 3         | 90E       | $3.4^{+1.3}_{-1}$               | $0.062^{+0.031}_{-0.022}$             | IIP  | 3         |
| 91G  | $1.3^{+0.9}_{-0.6}$             | $0.022^{+0.008}_{-0.006}$             | IIP  | 3         | 92H       | $3.1^{+1.3}_{-1}$               | $0.129^{+0.053}_{-0.037}$             | IIP  | 3         |
| 92ba | $1.3^{+0.5}_{-0.4}$             | $0.019^{+0.009}_{-0.007}$             | IIP  | 3         | 93J       | $2.4^{+1.1}_{-1}$               | $0.13^{+0.02}_{-0.01}$                | IIb  | 11        |
| 94I  | $1.2^{+0.6}_{-0.5}$             | $0.08^{+0.01}_{-0.01}$                | Ibc  | 11        | 96cb      | $2.1^{+1.6}_{-0.9}$             | $0.12^{+0.04}_{-0.03}$                | IIb  | 11        |
| 97D  | 0.9                             | 0.006                                 | IIP  | 3         | 97ef      | 8                               | 0.15                                  | Ibc  | 3         |
| 98A  | 5.6                             | 0.11                                  | 87A  | 7         | 98bw      | $38.2^{+13}_{-11,1}$            | $0.76^{+0.11}_{-0.1}$                 | Ibc  | 11        |
| 99br | 0.6                             | $0.0016^{+0.0011}_{-0.0008}$          | IIP  | 3         | 99cr      | $1.9^{+0.8}_{-0.6}$             | $0.09^{+0.034}_{-0.027}$              | IIP  | 3         |
| 99dn | $7.3^{+2.6}_{-3.6}$             | $0.12^{+0.01}_{-0.02}$                | Ibc  | 11        | 99em      | $1.3^{+0.1}_{-0.1}$             | $0.036^{+0.009}_{-0.009}$             | IIP  | 1         |
| 99em | $1.2^{+0.6}_{-0.3}$             | $0.042^{+0.027}_{-0.019}$             | IIP  | 3         | 99ex      | $3.6^{+2.1}_{-1.5}$             | $0.18^{+0.05}_{-0.04}$                | Ibc  | 11        |
| 99gi | $1.5^{+0.7}_{-0.5}$             | $0.018^{+0.013}_{-0.009}$             | IIP  | 3         | 00cb      | $4.4^{+0.3}_{-0.3}$             | $0.083^{+0.039}_{-0.039}$             | 87A  | 1         |
| 02ap | $6.3^{+3.8}_{-2.9}$             | $0.09^{+0.01}_{-0.01}$                | Ibc  | 11        | 03Z       | $0.245^{+0.018}_{-0.018}$       | $0.0063^{+0.0006}_{-0.0006}$          | IIP  | 4         |
| 03bg | $3.8^{+1.8}_{-1.6}$             | $0.19^{+0.03}_{-0.02}$                | IIb  | 11        | 03gd      | $1.4^{+0.3}_{-0.3}$             | $0.016^{+0.01}_{-0.006}$              | IIP  | 5         |
| 03jd | $7.4^{+2.8}_{-2.4}$             | $0.51^{+0.1}_{-0.09}$                 | Ibc  | 11        | 04aw      | $6.6^{+2.3}_{-3.3}$             | $0.26^{+0.05}_{-0.04}$                | Ibc  | 11        |
| 04dk | $5.3^{+3}_{-2.2}$               | $0.27^{+0.05}_{-0.04}$                | Ibc  | 11        | 04dn      | $7.1^{+3.5}_{-3.6}$             | $0.22^{+0.04}_{-0.03}$                | Ibc  | 11        |
| 04et | $2.3^{+0.3}_{-0.3}$             | $0.068^{+0.009}_{-0.009}$             | IIP  | 1         | 04fe      | $3.6^{+1.5}_{-1.7}$             | $0.3^{+0.05}_{-0.05}$                 | Ibc  | 11        |
| 04ff | $2.9^{+1.6}_{-1.9}$             | $0.22^{+0.04}_{-0.03}$                | IIb  | 11        | 04gq      | $5.2^{+2.9}_{-2.2}$             | $0.14^{+0.07}_{-0.05}$                | Ibc  | 11        |
| 05az | $3.9^{+2.5}_{-1.7}$             | $0.38^{+0.08}_{-0.07}$                | Ibc  | 11        | 05bf      | $0.8^{+1.4}_{-0.3}$             | $0.09^{+0.04}_{-0.02}$                | Ibc  | 11        |
| 05cs | $0.43^{+0.03}_{-0.03}$          | $0.0082^{+0.0016}_{-0.0016}$          | IIP  | 1         | 05cs      | $0.16^{+0.03}_{-0.03}$          | $0.006^{+0.003}_{-0.003}$             | IIP  | 2         |
| 05hg | $2.5^{+1.1}_{-1.2}$             | $0.76^{+0.11}_{-0.1}$                 | Ibc  | 11        | 06T       | $1.2^{+0.6}_{-0.5}$             | $0.1^{+0.04}_{-0.02}$                 | IIb  | 11        |
| 06au | 3.2                             | 0.073                                 | 87A  | 8         | 06el      | $6.4^{+2.6}_{-4.1}$             | $0.16^{+0.03}_{-0.03}$                | IIb  | 11        |
| 06ep | $4.1^{+2.2}_{-2.4}$             | $0.08^{+0.03}_{-0.02}$                | Ibc  | 11        | 06ov      | 2.4                             | 0.127                                 | 87A  | 8         |
| 07C  | $3.8^{+1.6}_{-2.3}$             | $0.2^{+0.05}_{-0.04}$                 | Ibc  | 11        | 07Y       | $1.9^{+1.8}_{-1}$               | $0.05^{+0.01}_{-0.01}$                | Ibc  | 11        |
| 07gr | $2.9^{+1.3}_{-1.1}$             | $0.1^{+0.02}_{-0.01}$                 | Ibc  | 11        | 07od      | 0.5                             | 0.02                                  | IIP  | 6         |
| 07ru | $13^{+6.2}_{-7.3}$              | $0.52^{+0.05}_{-0.05}$                | Ibc  | 11        | 07uy      | $10.8^{+3.7}_{-5.9}$            | $0.34^{+0.05}_{-0.04}$                | Ibc  | 11        |
| 08D  | $4.5^{+3.7}_{-1.7}$             | $0.1^{+0.02}_{-0.01}$                 | Ibc  | 11        | 08ax      | $2.6^{+2.9}_{-1.1}$             | $0.16^{+0.05}_{-0.04}$                | IIb  | 11        |
| 08in | $0.505^{+0.34}_{-0.34}$         | $0.015^{+0.005}_{-0.005}$             | IIP  | 1         | 08in      | $0.49^{+0.098}_{-0.098}$        | $0.012^{+0.005}_{-0.005}$             | IIP  | 2         |
| 09E  | 0.6                             | 0.04                                  | IIP  | 7         | 09bb      | $9.2^{+6}_{-3.2}$               | $0.31^{+0.05}_{-0.04}$                | Ibc  | 11        |
| 09bw | 0.3                             | 0.022                                 | IIP  | 10        | 09ib      | 0.55                            | $0.046^{+0.015}_{-0.015}$             | IIP  | 12        |
| 09jf | $8.9^{+7.5}_{-4.3}$             | $0.24^{+0.03}_{-0.02}$                | Ibc  | 11        | 11bm      | $14^{+5.7}_{-5.6}$              | $0.71^{+0.11}_{-0.09}$                | Ibc  | 11        |
| 11dh | $1.5^{+0.8}_{-0.7}$             | $0.09^{+0.01}_{-0.01}$                | IIb  | 11        | 11hs      | $1.1^{+1}_{-0.5}$               | $0.04^{+0.01}_{-0.01}$                | IIb  | 11        |
| 12A  | 0.48                            | 0.011                                 | IIP  | 9         | 12A       | $0.525^{+0.06}_{-0.06}$         | $0.016^{+0.002}_{-0.002}$             | IIP  | 1         |
| 12aw | 1.5                             | 0.06                                  | IIP  | 10        | 13df      | $0.8^{+0.4}_{-0.4}$             | $0.115^{+0.015}_{-0.015}$             | IIb  | 13        |
| 13ej | $1.4^{+0.7}_{-0.7}$             | $0.02^{+0.01}_{-0.01}$                | IIP  | 14        | iPTF13bvn | $1.8^{+0.8}_{-0.8}$             | $0.07^{+0.02}_{-0.02}$                | Ibc  | 11        |

**Note.** — REFERENCES.—(1) Utrobin & Chugai (2014);(2) Spiro et al. (2014);(3) Hamuy (2003);(4) Hendry et al. (2005);(5) Inserra et al. (2011);(6) Pastorello et al. (2012);(7) Pastorello et al. (2005);(8) Taddia et al. (2012);(9) Tomasella et al. (2013);(10) Dall’Ora et al. (2014);(11) Lyman et al. (2014);(12) Takáts et al. (2015);(13) Morales-Garoffolo et al. (2014); (14) Huang et al. (2015)